

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-20 stand rejected. Claims 1-2 and 11-12 are amended herein.

Claims 1-7, 10-17, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,513,642 (Cornett). Inasmuch as the rejection applies to the claims as amended, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 11 require an impeller air inlet tube extending down through the separator chamber, with the impeller air inlet tube including an air only inlet. Claims 1 and 11 further require a separator impeller chamber adapted to house an impeller for generating the air/liquid airflow, with the separator impeller chamber communicating with an air outlet located on an exterior of the air/liquid separator and with the impeller air inlet tube.

Cornett does not disclose an impeller air inlet tube extending down through the separator chamber, with the impeller air inlet tube including an air only inlet and does not disclose a separator impeller chamber adapted to house an impeller for generating the air/liquid airflow, with the separator impeller chamber communicating with an air outlet located on an exterior of the air/liquid separator and with the impeller air inlet tube. In contrast, Cornett discloses that air is provided into a centrifugal dust separator through an inlet 9 and up and out through the outlet 13. Cornett does not include an impeller air inlet tube, instead including an inner perforated screening cone 12 that communicates with the outlet 13.

Claims 1-5, 7, 10-15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,842,145 (Boadway). Inasmuch as the rejection applies to the claims as amended, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Boadway does not disclose an impeller air inlet tube extending down through the separator chamber, with the impeller air inlet tube including an air only inlet and does not disclose a separator impeller chamber adapted to house an impeller for generating the air/liquid airflow, with the separator impeller chamber communicating with an air outlet located on an exterior of the air/liquid separator and with the impeller air inlet tube. In

contrast, Boadway discloses a fluid cyclone that receives a fluid to be separated through an inlet 1. Boadway discloses that a separated higher density component is discharged from an orifice 11 in a chamber 14, and discharges a separated lower density component through an exit 7.

Claims 8 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Boadway in view of U.S. Patent 5,669,948 (Brotigardh et al.). Claims 8 and 18 depend from independent claims 1 and 11 and therefore are patentable for the reasons previously discussed.

Claims 9 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Boadway in view of U.S. Patent 2003/0213091 (Oh et al.). Claims 9 and 19 depend from independent claims 1 and 11 and therefore are patentable for the reasons previously discussed.

It should be noted that Oh does not disclose a "vane". The component 444 of Oh is NOT labeled as being a "spiral guide vane". The Office Action added the "vane" term to the "spiral guide" of Oh. The rejection is therefore improper.

Applicants submit that there are numerous additional reasons in support of patentability, but that such reasons are moot in light of the above remarks and are omitted in the interests of brevity. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-20.

Please feel free to call me to discuss the patentability of the pending claims.

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